



Smallpox Vaccine Components

- The smallpox vaccine currently available in the United States (Dryvax, produced by Wyeth) is a live-virus preparation of infectious vaccinia virus. Smallpox vaccine does not contain smallpox (variola) virus.
- The current was prepared in the early 1980s from calf lymph with a seed virus derived from the NYCBOH strain of vaccinia virus. The vaccine is provided as a lyophilized (freeze-dried) powder in a 100-dose vial, and contains the antibiotics polymyxin B, streptomycin, tetracycline and neomycin.
- The diluent used to reconstitute the vaccine is 50 percent glycerin and a small amount of phenol as a preservative.